

REMARKS

Correspondence Address

Applicant hereby resubmits the previously filed Power of Attorney. Applicant requests the PTO to update the Correspondence Address.

Allowable Subject Matter

Dependent claims 32 and 33 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant holds in abeyance the rewriting of the claims in view of the amendment to claim 1, which is discussed below.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Irish (USP 4,324,511) in view of Cedergren (USP 4,273,478).

Examiner Interview

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the telephone interview on November 18, 2008, in which the undersigned discussed the amendment to claim 1 above with the Examiner. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to recite that a combination, comprising both an air tube system and a carrier for transferring security documents. The Examiner agreed that the amendment to claim 1 would overcome the rejection of record and would be allowable.

In this regard, Applicant respectfully submits that there is *no reason* why one of ordinary skill would have provided a shutter at Irish's closed end section in view of the fact that Irish's aperture 45 is provided for pressure equalization and, thus, *should always remain open*.¹ As

¹ See Irish at 4:61-65.

such, it would not have been obvious to modify the carrier of Irish so that the aperture 25 includes a shutter of a sugar dispenser. The Examiner appears to rely solely on hindsight since the purpose of a shutter of a sugar dispenser, i.e., controlling the dispensing sugar, would not be accomplished by providing the shutter with a carrier tube. The carrier tube of Irish is not designed to carry any structure similar to sugar.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-4 and 31.

Withdrawn Claims

Claims 5-13, 15-24, 27, 28 and 30 are withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to rejoin these claims when a generic, linking claim has been allowed.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Application No.: 10/516,532

Attorney Docket No.: Q104936

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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